SproutConverter

GearSprout LLC

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Welcome to SproutConverter

Welcome

SproutConverter for Mac OS X is an application designed to remove blank spaces, static, video noise, artifacts, feedback, errors, distortion, and other unintended deformities. The video sections are cleaned and then rendered to a format of the user's choosing.

This manual will walk you through the basics of using SproutConverter as well as some tips and tricks to get the most out of this powerful and patent pending software.

For the latest updates, news, and support please visit us at:
http://www.gearsprout.com

Overview

Multimedia video files sometimes contain blank spaces, static, noise, artifacts, distortion, feedback, and other glitches, which occur in-between the normal video segments.

These blank or noise affected sections cause the video to play back with gaps and stutter. If there are any blank or distorted frames in a video, existing video editing software requires that you manually remove them. This process requires repetition involving manual search and removal.

SproutConverter fixes these video problems for you.

2 Getting Started

Installing

SproutConverter is a self contained application for Intel Macintosh computers. All you need to do is drag and drop SproutConverter into your Applications folder and you are all set.

NOTE: If you purchased SproutConverter from the Mac App Store then this has already been done for you.

Uninstalling

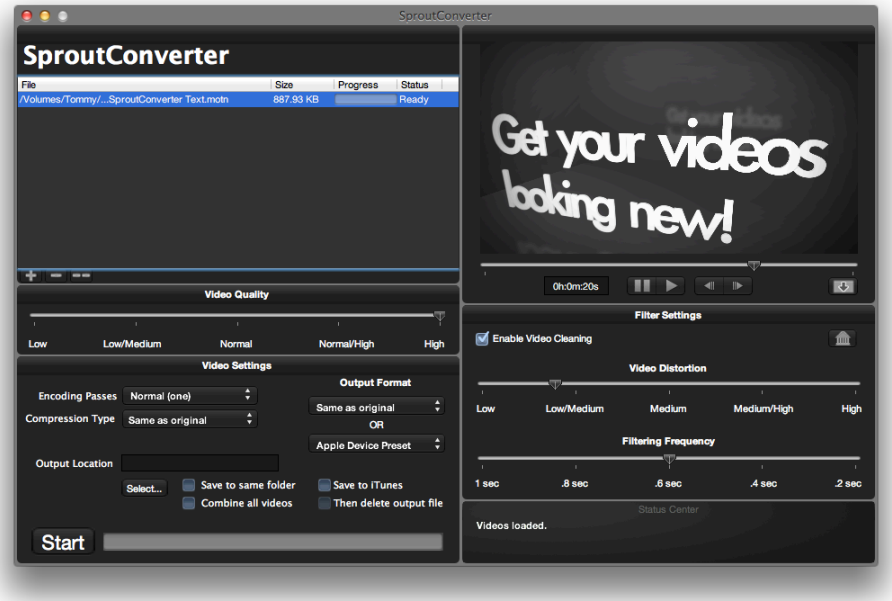
If you want to uninstall SproutConverter then simply drag the application from the Applications folder to your Trash.

Updating and Registration

You will be informed whenever SproutConverter has been updated and you will then be prompted to download the most up to date copy with new features and fixes.

Registration is automatic once you purchase your copy. You do not need to supply us with any further information.

3 Application Overview



Basic Usage

To add video files and movies to SproutConverter you can either drag and drop the files or press the + button in the bottom left hand corner of the Add File section.

If the file is supported then SproutConverter will quickly give you a Ready status for cleaning and conversion. If it is not supported the Status Center will notify you.

You can then choose your output video quality, encoding passes, compression type, output format and more.

Cleaning

If your videos contain distortion, unwanted blank spaces, or other glitches that you wish to remove, check the “Enable Video Cleaning” checkbox. This enables cleaning for all videos that you have added to the SproutConverter file list.

How It Works

SproutConverter looks over your videos for frames in your video that match known types of distortion. You may see what types of distortion SproutConverter is currently looking for by clicking on the Filter Library button and looking at the examples in its gallery.

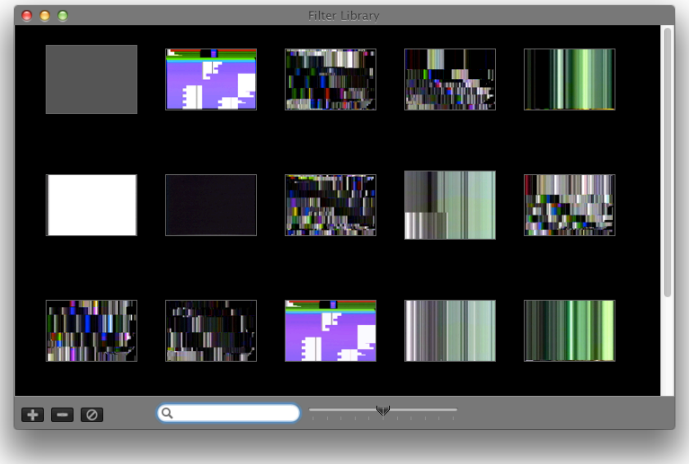
Filter Library

Inside the Filter Library you will see all the types of distortion that your videos will be compared against. SproutConverter comes with common types of distortion filters. You will see these alongside any filters you have added to the library.

Adding a Filter

If you wish to add a new filter, there are two ways of doing so. If you have an example of the distortion you wish to find in a video, you can load it in to SproutConverter, use the tracking slider to advance to that part of the video, and press the Create Filter button. The currently displayed frame will be captured and added to the library as a type of distortion to look for.

You may also import existing image files by clicking on the Add Filter button and selecting an image on your computer.



Removing a Filter

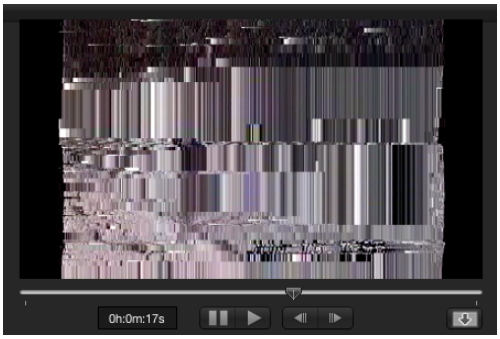
If you do not wish for a particular type of distortion to be compared against, you have the option of either temporarily disabling it or removing it completely. To disable that particular filter, click on it and then click the Disable button. To permanently remove a filter from the library, click the Remove button.

Filter Settings

In the main SproutConverter window, in the Filter Settings area, you will see two sliders called Video Distortion and Filtering Frequency.

The Video Distortion slider allows you to tell SproutConverter how distorted your video is, and consequently, how aggressive it will be when determining which areas are distortion and which are not. A low setting will find distorted areas that match very closely to the filters in the Filter Library. A high setting will be very loose when comparing the filters in the Filter Library with your video. Here are some examples of low and high distortion in a video:

Low distortion (blank image)



High distortion (warped image)

The Filtering Frequency slider allows you to set how often SproutConverter will check for a distortion. The more often it checks, the longer it will take to check the entire video. If your video has distortion in short bursts, you should set the filtering frequency to check more frequently. If the distortion happens over a long period, you can check less frequently to speed up the filtering process.

Video Settings

Video Quality

The Video Quality slider determines the clarity of the final movie that will be produced. A higher setting will produce a better picture, but it will increase the file size of the movie and slow conversion time. Converting to formats for iPods and similar devices does not normally require a high quality.

Encoding Passes

Normally, a single encoding pass is satisfactory, although if you are concerned about video quality, you may select Best to perform two encoding passes. This will increase the conversion time, but may increase video quality.

Compression Type

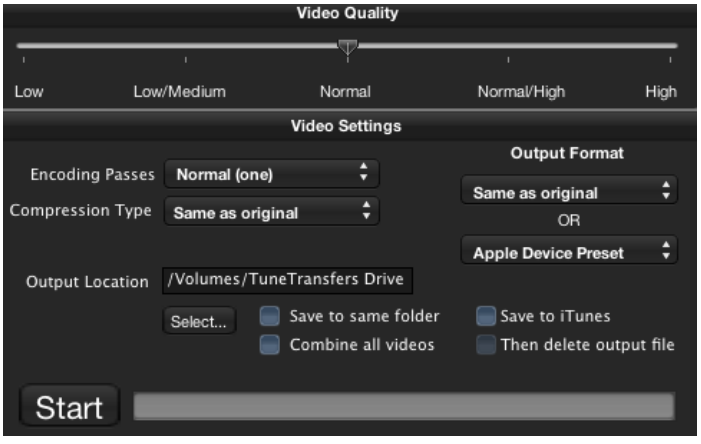
You may select the compression codec to be used when converting your video. This will allow you to convert your video at a specific quality and for a specific use.

NOTE: Some compression codecs are incompatible with certain output formats. If you receive a warning or error when attempting to convert a video, check your compression and file format output.

NOTE: If the original codec used to convert a video file is not available, a default codec will be used.

Instant Save

Using Instant Save allows you to skip the converting process by directly cutting the tracks in an MOV file and then resaving the file. This allow for very fast saving, but only works with MOV files and retains the original file size.



Output Format

Under the two Output Format selection boxes, you may choose a type of file format to use or a preset for an Apple device. Selecting an option on either menu will set the other back to its default. You cannot use a preset and select a specific output format at the same time.

When selecting an Apple device preset, the compression type will automatically be set to the most optimal setting for that device.

Output Location

You may either select an output location by clicking the Select... button or typing in the path manually. If there is no path set after starting the conversion process, the result will simply be placed in the same folder as the original.

Save to Same Folder

Checking this box overrides the output location and saves the output video files in the same folder as the original.

Combine All Videos

Selecting this checkbox merges all videos in to a single video file. The videos are merged in the order they were added to SproutConverter.

Save to iTunes

If you wish to save the output video files to iTunes, checking this box will automatically add them to your iTunes library.

Then Delete Output File

This option is only available if you are saving the output video files to iTunes. This will clean up the video file after it has been added to iTunes so it will only exist in the iTunes library.

4 Troubleshooting

Overview

We have strived to make SproutConverter as easy to use and as reliable as possible. However, there may be circumstances in which you experience a crash or a failed conversion or cleaning process. We are happy to help in any way possible and provide technical support for you. Please contact us at info@gearsprout.com for support if you can not find an answer in the Troubleshooting section below.

FAQ

Q: My videos are showing “ERROR” in the status column.

A: This message shows when there was an error writing the file after the cleaning process. Usually it means that the compression codec and output format are not compatible. You may also encounter this error if you run out of disk space when writing the file.

Q: I cleaned my video but there are still problem areas.

A: If you still see problem areas in your video, the video distortion slider may not be set high enough to identify all the errors. You can also save a sample of the problem area in your video to the filter library if it has a type of distortion not found in the filter library.

Q: I cleaned my video and it removed more than I wanted to, what happened?

A: If the video distortion slider is set too high, this can cause SproutConverter to remove normal areas of the video that closely resemble the filters in the library. If this happens, try setting the video distortion slider to a lower setting. You can also disable filters in the library if you see any that are very similar to your video footage.

Q: Why isn't x compression/format/preset in the program?

A: Although we do our best to offer a wide variety of options, there are many types of video compression codecs, formats, and devices out there. If you have a favorite codec/format/device that you would like to see included in a future update for SproutConverter, drop us a line at info@gearsprout.com.

Q: When I try to add a video I receive an error stating that it could not be imported.

A: Please check and make sure the file you are attempting to import is actually a video file and it is not corrupt. If you still have problems, the file format or compression codec may not be supported by SproutConverter.

Q: SproutConverter crashed! What do I do?

A: Although we do testing to ensure that SproutConverter runs smoothly, you unfortunately may experience a crash. Any file that has completed the conversion process will still be completed and your original files will not be harmed.

If you experience a crash and wish to report it, please email us at info@gearsprout.com with a description of the crash and what you were doing at the time it happened. If you have a detailed crash description, you can copy that in to your email for us to read. We're very sorry if a crash happens to you - we will do our best to correct it in the next update.

5 Other Resources

Support on the Web

If you need additional support using SproutConverter other than emailing us at info@gearsprout.com then please try the resources below.

http://www.gearsprout.com

http://www.tunetransfers.com

SproutConverter User Manual

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SproutConverter by GearSprout LLC

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